

Greetings to each of you. I hope this finds you enjoying your week.

There are 34 days left of session. The pace seems to be quickening somewhat. Today was the first meeting of the conferees for the overall budget. The House and the Senate each passed budgets that differ from each other. Then each house nominates 5 members to a conference committee to hash out the differences. Those 10 legislators basically determine the final budget. This is unique for us because it is through this process that we will likely see more details of our budget emerge. We have spent a lot of time with key offices to ensure that the needs of the agency are known and considered through the conference process. We are hopeful that we are being heard.

We are also following key legislation through the process. SB 1630 relating to county regionalization has moved to the House side where we are working on adding some funding to the bill. This is key for counties to begin regionalizing within the next biennium (FYs 2016-17). We are following several bills that support our system that are moving through one house, headed for the other—relating to training of JCOs (shifting pre-service training hours to on-going training hours), transferring the cemetery at Corsicana to the alumni group there, Fingerprint Advisory Board recommendations, etc.

I participated in a very successful golf tournament Saturday that benefited the Giddings Community Resource Council. I loved being a part of that and am grateful for Bill and Tammy Holland's continued work to make that event possible. It is noteworthy to recognize that this tournament celebrated its 26th year this past week. That speaks to the perseverance and commitment of all who plan to make this happen and to the participants, many of whom travelled a good distance to participate.

As always, if there is something on your mind that I need to know about, don't hesitate to reach out. Over the summer, I hope to see more of you in the field. I am going to make it a point to get out there after session.

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